

TETON SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT 5 YEAR & ANNUAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLAN



TETON SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT –
2023

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COVER SHEET (VIEW OF TETONS FROM HWY 33)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OR FORWARD

The Teton Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 50 conservation districts in the state of Idaho. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. Conservation districts are charged with the responsibility of having programs for conservation, use and development of soil, water and our bounteous natural resources in Idaho.

Conservation districts are primary entities providing assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's Natural Resources. They are the catalyst for coordinating and implementing conservation programs, channeling expertise from all levels of government into action at the local level. Programs are non-regulatory; science based technical assistance, certified quantitative studies and research assistance as well as incentive based financial programs with informal and educational programs for the local community.

Both by legislation and by agreement the USDA NRCS provides technical assistance to landowners and land users through conservation districts. Each conservation district in Idaho has a signed mutual agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework for cooperation.

This Annual Plan/Five Year Resource Conservation Business Plan has been developed to guide the conservation district and to encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations and elected officials. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations in the Teton Soil Conservation District.

This document identifies the resource needs in the Teton Soil Conservation District and presents a resource conservation plan for meeting those needs.

FY 2023 5 Year BUSINESS PLAN 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

Teton Soil Conservation District 5 YEAR & ANNUAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLAN

TETON SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT - 2023

ANTI-DEGRADATION PLAN (2015-2019) RELATING TO IDAPA 60, TITLE 05, CHAPTER 2, 025; FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT J LYNN BAGLEY, CHAIRMAN (208) 313-7560 OR TINA DEAN, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (208) 354-2680 EXTENSION 101 OR TETONSCD@SILVERSTAR.COM. \

ORGANIZATION OF TSCD

Teton SCD is a political subdivision of the state of Idaho—with authorities, powers and structure in Soil Conservation Law Title 22, and Chapter 27 of Idaho Code.

During the 1940's farmers in Teton County Idaho expressed interest in forming a soil conservation district. In 1949 a public hearing was held and the farmers testified that a conservation district could help them to remodel irrigation systems, develop additional cropland, control weeds, and identify which crops their soil was best suited to produce and how to reduce erosion on dry and irrigated farmland. One hundred people voted in the August 29, 1949 referendum, 93 for the new district and 7 against. The Teton Soil Conservation District was officially organized on February 10, 1950 and encompassed all of Teton County Idaho. The five original supervisors were, Asa Drake-Victor, Rulan Ward-Felt, Donald Jardine and Adrian Cook-Tetonia and Roy Griffith-Driggs.

Current supervisors are as follows, Lynn Bagley (Chairman) from Victor and Robert Piquet (Vice Chair) from Driggs, Harley Hill (secretary/treasurer) from Felt, Ron Hansen, from Tetonia and Nathan Penfold from Driggs.

Function of TSCD

To make available technical, financial, and educational resources whatever their source and focus and to coordinate them so those resources meet the needs of the local land manager, Teton County and the community in conserving soil, water and related natural and other resources.

Who We Serve and Why?

The Teton Soil Conservation District provides services to the people of Teton County relating to the natural resources within the boundaries of Teton SCD. The district provides this service to landowners, the county and the general public. Teton SCD maintains that outreach is of extreme importance, teaching the importance of sustainable land management systems used in

agro-science practices to school aged children, the community and adults. The district provides active informational workshops and outreach programs. Teton SOD also works hand in hand with the NRCS to provide information and education to the entire community young and old educating them on the importance of conserving natural resources.

Mission of the Soil Conservation District

Teton Soil Conservation District's Mission is to work with willing landowners to reduce erosion by improving soil health, to protect our valuable rivers and streams and the wildlife therein, to improve air quality by smart agricultural practices thereby sustaining natural resources and maintaining safe habitat for wildlife in our area. Landowners receive technical assistance through our partners the NRCS and SWC.



Nathan Penfold, Harley Hill, Robert Fiquet, Ron Hansen and Lynn Bagley – Supervisors TSCD

Vision of TSCD

The Teton Soil Conservation District's Vision is to be a resource and source for conservation in Teton Valley, to be a voice for conservation with our local legislators. TSCD provides and implements outreach programs for our youth and producers in Teton County as to the wise use of private and county owned land resources.

Values of TSCD

- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Access to Irrigation Water for Teton Producers
- Water Recharge Programs
- Support for agriculture activity that uses sustainable, economically feasible practices
- Improvement of soil health
- Educating local producers about bio management practices in the district, thereby improving agricultural output, lessening erosion and decreasing the pollutants in our rivers and streams
- Value and respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership
- Provide conservation education/outreach for adults and youth in our community

Natural Resource Priorities/Goals IDAPA60.05.02.025.04

- Water Quality and Quantity/ addressing H2O quality, irrigated crop land, non-irrigated crop land, rangeland, pasture and Hay land, information and education, and fish & wildlife
- Vegetative Management/ addressing H2O quality, irrigated crop land, non-irrigated crop land, rangeland, pasture and hay land, information and education and fish & wildlife
- District Operations and Education Outreach/addresses woodland, information and education
- Fish and Wildlife

Critical Geographical Area/Physical Characteristics (see map) IDAPA 60.05.02.025.01

Teton Soil Conservation District has the same physical boundaries as Teton County Idaho. It is located in Eastern Idaho and borders the State of Wyoming to the East and is known as the Teton Valley. It is ringed with magnificent mountain vistas.

The foothills of these mountains form the Eastern Boundary of the district. To the South the Snake River range marks the divide between the Snake River Drainage and the Teton River Drainage.

To the west the Big Hble Mountain Range forms the Western Boundary of the TSCD. The Teton River a sportsman's paradise, meanders through this high Alpine Valley from the North to the South, draining the entire area. Numerous tributaries flow into the Teton River from various watersheds.

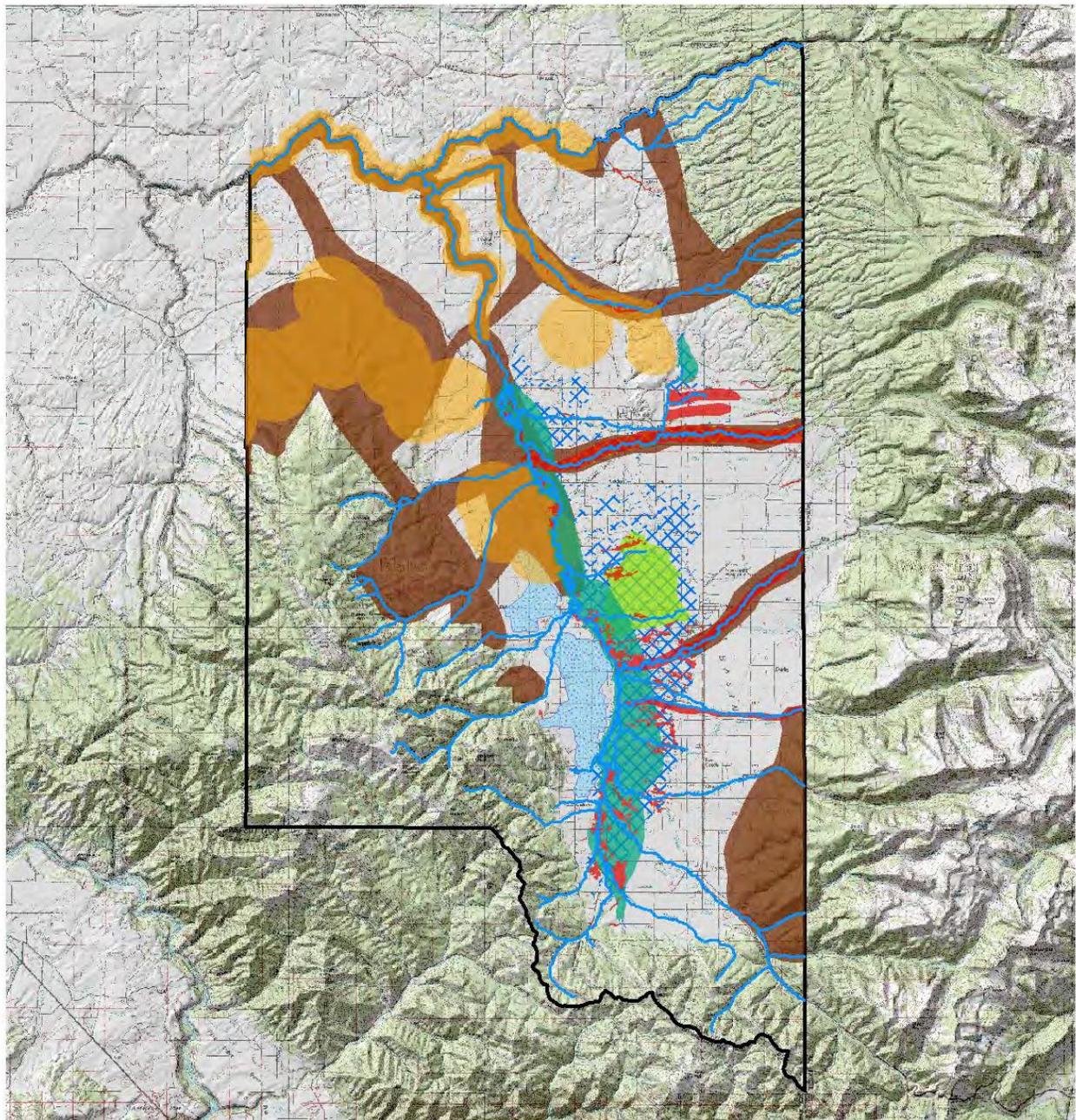
The valley elevations range from 5,800 to 7,000 feet above sea level. The high elevation creates a rigorous climate of long, cold winters and moderately warm summers in which it is not unusual to get snowfall. The valley is approximately 20 miles long and about 12 miles wide at the widest point and consists of approximately 459 square miles (294,012 acres). Teton County is the second smallest county in the state of Idaho. Most of the county is in private holdings (33%) with State Managed lands constituting approximately 62% of the county. The remaining 5% of land base consists of waterways or federally owned land. Total privately owned acres are approximately 191,275.

Four main arterial highways provide access to Teton Valley. The topography ranges from the high elevation (6,000 ft. average) at the Teton Basin that drains the Teton River and its tributaries, to the Big Hble Mountains in the Southwest portion of the county, where peaks reach 9,000 Ft.

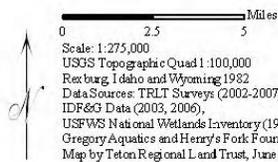
Counties that border Teton County include Bonneville, Madison and Fremont Counties, as well as Teton County Wyoming. Thirty-one different soil types have been identified within the TSCD area (see soils information in resources portion of this document). The following map indicates the SCD boundary and division between public lands and private lands in Teton County.

Climate (IDAPA 60.05.02.025.01)

Climate in Teton County is extremely variable due to differences in elevation. Teton Valley's average annual precipitation, at the 6,100ft is 15.9 inches, with an average snowfall of 73.7 inches. Highest average daily maximum temperature occurs in the hottest month, July and is 81.1degrees Fahrenheit. The driest month varies depending on the year, however for this study November was the driest and the wettest month is June. (Source: Teton County Wild Land Fire Mtigation Plan)



TETON COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES OVERLAY



-  BIG GAME MIGRATION CORRIDORS AND SEASONAL RANGE
-  WATERBIRD MIGRATION, FORAGING HABITAT
-  WATERBIRD BREEDING, MIGRATION, FORAGING, WINTERING HABITAT
-  SONGBIRD/RAPTOR BREEDING AND WINTERING HABITAT
-  SHARP-TAILED GROUSE BREEDING AND WINTERING HABITAT
-  PRIORITY WETLAND HABITAT
-  PRIORITY WETLAND HABITAT - WOODS CREEK FEN
-  PRIORITY WETLAND HABITAT - SOUTH LEIGH
-  PERENNIAL AND SEASONAL TROUT HABITAT

Economic Condition and Outlook IDAPA 60.05.02.025.02

Teton County has 277 farms encompassing 191,275 acres with the average farm size at 690 acres. Over a 30-year period farms have decreased from 560 to 277. In addition, Teton County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the nation going from 3,100 populations to 11,630 in the last 30 years. (Source: US Census of Agriculture)

Infrastructure and utilities are trying to keep pace with the influx of people moving to the valley. The county has attracted many second home owners or part time residents because of the beauty and grandeur of the area. Teton County Idaho is somewhat of a bedroom community for Jackson employing the majority of Teton County residents. Much of the county's employment is seasonal depending upon tourism, but Teton County government has put in place plans and incentives for small businesses to open their doors in Teton Valley. The seven main industries in Teton County are trade, leisure, hospitality, construction professional and business services, government and agriculture. (source: Idaho Job Service, Teton County Workforce Trends)

County residents are accustomed to harsh and long winters where there is always the possibility of being cut off from surrounding areas due to road closures. With the natural, pristine landscapes and close proximity to Jackson WY and National Parks, increases in population are expected to continue. Teton SCD Board Members stated they hope to assist the community to embrace a rural quality of life to help landowners to sustain agro-economics through the changing economic and demographical climate of Teton Valley

Status of the Agricultural Economic Outlook

- Idaho's Right to Farm Laws are established to ensure that agriculture remains a viable and vibrant part of our rural Idaho culture. State statutes, Idaho Code sections 22-4506 indicates those laws and the establishment thereof. Idaho Code section 50-2018 provides definitions relating to Idaho's Right to Farm Laws and Code. Reducing development conflicts with the right to farm in Teton County is a priority for the district.
- The Upper Teton River TMDL is currently preparing for a 5-year review of the 13 segments in the sub basin on Idaho 1998s303 (d) list. Sediment is cited as the pollutant responsible for the impairment of 9 of the 13 segments. Agriculture is the main contributor of sediment. TMDLs were developed for 8 water bodies and nutrient TMDLs for two in the original TDML. Temperature TMDLs for Fox and Spring Creeks and a nutrient TDML for Moody Creek were developed in the TDML supplement. However, temperature was recently found in the upper reaches of the Teton River mainstream. Sediment allocations for North Leigh Creek were included in the Spring Creek sediment TMDL. Darby, Fox, Hrseshoe, Packsaddle and Spring Creeks are listed for flow alteration, and the Teton River is listed for habitat alteration. However, the US Environmental Protection Agency does not believe that flow and habitat alteration are pollutants as defined by the Clean Water Act. Since the TDMLs are not required for water bodies impaired by pollution but not pollutants, TDMLs were not developed for flow or habitat alteration.

RESOURCE SETTINGS IDAPA 60.05.02.025.02 (Source: Teton Rapid Watershed Assessment)

Non-Irrigated Cropland

Primarily during winter wheat/fallow (precipitation 10-14"), winter wheat/spring barley/fallow (precipitation 12-16") or annual spring barley (precipitation 16-22") on silt loam with slopes 0-16%. Non irrigated cropland is often characterized by significant ephemeral gully and concentrated flow erosion as well as sheet and rill erosion.

Conventional tillage results in less than 10% residue after planting. Application of nutrients and pesticides typically does not meet Idaho NRCS Standards.

Surface Irrigated Cropland

Conventionally tilled, often intensively cultivated border irrigated cropland on 0-1% slopes. Precipitation is 12" or less. Soils are typically sandy loams, silt loams and loams and may have been extensively land levelled in the past. Typically crops are rotations of small grains and alfalfa, although annual grain is also common. Nutrient, pest and/or irrigation water management may be less than desirable. Impacted surface and/or ground water quality is common.

Sprinkler Irrigated Cropland

Conventionally tilled croplands are on soils ranging from sands to loams. Rotations containing less than 66% high residue crops can lead to wind erosion problems. Wind erosion is typically a problem from March to June, creating air quality and visibility hazards in some portions of the sub basin. Various combinations of small grains, alfalfa, beets, potatoes and barley are grown. Potatoes are grown with one or two years of spring grain is a typical rotation on slopes ranging from 0-8%. These rotations may have sheet and rill and ephemeral gully erosion problems in the spring following potatoes. Sprinkler irrigation induced erosion may also be a concern, especially on steeper slopes. Nutrient and pest management may be less than desirable. Wildlife habitat is often inadequate with limited permanent cover.

Hay land

Conventionally tilled, surface and sprinkler irrigated on 0-7% slopes. Precipitation is 20" or less per year with a growing season ranging from 80-160 days. Irrigation water is normally plentiful though ground water quality is a concern in some areas. Small grains and alfalfa are grown on rotation, with alfalfa typically maintained for 4-6 years. Grazing of crop aftermath may occur. Nutrient, pest or irrigation water management may be less than desirable.

Non irrigated upland hay consists of introduced perennial grasses and legumes. One cutting is common. Renovations occur every 6-10 years. Soils vary from loams to silt loams with slopes ranging from 3-30%. Precipitation is 16" or greater. Soil testing and fertility management are typically lacking. Grazing of crop aftermath is common.

Pasture

Some improved non-irrigated land pasture with introduced forage species including wheatgrasses, fescues, bromes, orchard grass, sanfoin, clover and alfalfa. The older established stands are of low vigor, with encroachment of noxious weeds. Continuous season-long grazing is typical, with below optimum forage production. No commercial fertilizers are applied, and the pest management practices are limited. Livestock water may be inadequate or poorly managed.

Irrigated pastureland includes both low elevation pastures and high elevation mountain valleys. Irrigated pastures are sprinkler or surface irrigated on variable soils with slopes 1-5%. Irrigation water is distributed via earthen ditches, with tail water eventually returning to rivers or streams. Fields may have been levelled. Surface irrigation efficiency is 20-35%. Plants are introduced forage species and native perennials, conventionally tilled when rotating pasture (10 years) and grain (2 years). Commercial fertilizers and/or organic fertilizer are sometimes applied, but without soil testing or nutrient management. Adjacent riparian areas are important for wildlife. Non irrigated riparian

pastures of native grass, sedge and rush species mixed with introduced Timothy, smooth brome grass, creeping meadow foxtail, orchard grass and clover forage are typically utilized by livestock from early spring through fall. Wildlife use these areas throughout the year. Annual precipitation is 20" or less. Soils are variable in texture on slopes of 0-2%. Nutrients are occasionally applied.

Rangeland

Md elevation desert to high elevation, steep rangeland. Md elevation rangeland has precipitation ranging from 12-16". This range consists of sagebrush, perennial bunchgrasses and forbs with variable soils on nearly level flats to benches and rolling hills. Frequent fires have eliminated some areas of sagebrush, with annual invaders dominant. Carrying capacity can be limited by available water. High elevation range has precipitation greater than 16", on steep slopes and high mountain valleys. Land is utilized by Antelope, Deer, Elk and livestock in winter and early spring. Areas are important Sage Grouse Habitat. Riparian grazing units typically exhibit impacts to riparian vegetation and a loss of woody species. Riparian vegetation consists of grasses, sedges, rushes and a variety of woody species. These areas are important to a variety of fish and wildlife. Soils range from gravelly to loamy. Elevation and precipitation vary widely throughout the area. Access to Riparian Areas on all rangeland types is not typically managed, and temperature, nutrients and sediment may be an associated water quality concern.

Headquarters

Livestock operations (AFO/CAFO), including winter feeding areas, that may or may not be adjacent to surface waters. Annual precipitation ranges from 8-25" and falls primarily from November to March. Soils vary from deep to shallow clays, silts and sandy loams that are poor to excessively drained. Animal waste is typically applied to cropland or pasture and suitable acreage may be limited. There is a high risk to surface water and/or ground water due to inadequate or incomplete waste management systems and livestock operations and related structures built adjacent to waterways or in flood plains. Livestock often have direct access to waterways resulting in water quality, stream bank, and aquatic habitat concerns. Pesticides are often used without a management plan. Odor concerns may affect adjacent landowners.

Soils

The first soil survey published in Teton County Idaho was in 1969. Thirty-one soils association were identified in the initial survey. A new survey is nearing completion and has been evaluated over the past few years. It has been digitized for web access, custom maps, reports and tables can be generated on this site.

www.websoilsurvey.nrcs.gov/app/



Below is a list of plants and animals that have been studied and the Fish and Wildlife Service has concluded that they should be proposed for addition to the Federal Endangered Species within the foreseeable future. Though candidate species have no protection under the act, they are included in the table for early planning consideration. Candidate species could be proposed or listed during the project planning period.

The below species/county table meets the Fish and Wildlife Services regulatory obligation under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) to provide federal agencies with a species list.



Idaho Yellow Billed Cuckoo - Threatened

Listed, proposed and candidate species designated and proposed critical habitat in Idaho (last updated 3/11/2016)

PLANTS

<i>Mrbilis macfarlanei</i>	<i>McFarlanes Four OClock</i>	Threatened
<i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>	<i>Slickspot Peppergrass</i>	Threatened-Proposed Critical Habitat
<i>Silene Spaldingii</i>	<i>Spaldings Catchfly</i>	Threatened
<i>Pinus albicaulis</i>	<i>Whitebark Pine</i>	Threatened

Mammals

<i>Lynx Canadensis</i>	<i>Canadian Lynx</i>	Threatened-Designated Critical Area
<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>	<i>Grizzly Bear</i>	Threatened-Proposed Critical Area
<i>Urocitellus brunneus</i>	<i>Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel</i>	Threatened
<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou S</i>	<i>Selkirk Mtn woodland Caribou</i>	Endangered-Designated Critical Area

Invertebrates

<i>Lanx sp</i>	<i>Banbury Springs Lanx</i>	Endangered
<i>Taylorconcha serpenticola</i>	<i>Bliss Rapids Snail</i>	Threatened
<i>Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis</i>	<i>Brneau Hbt Springs Snail</i>	Endangered
<i>Haitia (physa) natricina</i>	<i>Snake River Physa Snail</i>	Endangered

Fish

<i>Savelinus confluentus</i>	<i>Bull Trout</i>	Threatened
<i>Oncorhynchus Tshawytschu</i>	<i>Spring, Summer, Fall Chinook Salmon</i>	Threatened
<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	<i>Sockeye Salmon</i>	Endangered
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	<i>Steelhead Trout</i>	Threatened

Birds

<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	<i>Yellow-Billed Cucckoo</i>	Threatened
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Canadian Lynx – Threatened

ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCE CONDITIONS, TRENDS AND CONSERVATION NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT IDAPA 60.05.02.025.03

The Teton SCD identified areas impacting the conservation in the Teton Soil Conservation District:

- Slow economy impacting financial stability of our community
- Limited availability of state and private funds for conservation
- Urban subdivisions impact on agriculture productions/operations
- Increased weeds on lands that lay idle which are not actively cultivated through active agriculture
- Increasing small acreage farms, 5 acres or less
- Focus on water quality compared to other conservation funding in our community
- Trend to regulate agriculture and ranching
- Increased costs to operate a farm in Teton County
- Aging unhealthy forests surrounding private lands in Teton County that create a potential fire danger
- Promoting cover crops to improve crop production and soil health to minimize erosion, increase bio-matter in soil, increase retained moisture even in the driest season while also improving air quality, sediment in rivers and streams
- Research new crop species adaptable to Teton County's unique climate
- Energy efficiency for agriculture which were not a traditional component in agricultural programs



Brendon Rocky featured guest 2022 January Soil Health Workshop



PK Ranch 2022 Farm Tour

Strategies to address trends as stated above: IDAPA 60.05.02.025.03

- Evaluate and determine alternate funding sources to implement conservation in Teton County
- Promote incentive programs and the RCRDP loan program to those interested (IDAPA 60.05.02.51.02)
- Embrace opportunities to work closely with local and regional nonprofit groups to alleviate duplication of efforts, improve relationships. Maintain partnerships with traditional and nontraditional partners.
- Provide an active education program for the community regarding conservation in Teton Valley from ages 1 to 100.
- Raising awareness of conservation values with state legislature and elected officials. Helping our decision makers be better informed. Running for public office to better ally our local producers.
- Strengthen locally led efforts
- Offer for lease a no till drill, and seeder to local producers and community
- Train supervisors and staff of current issues, Farm Bill programs and opportunities for growth
- Become involved with Teton County and Planning and Zoning issues impacting natural resources
- Promote noxious weed and invasive species awareness through campaigns/workshops to more effectively target weed control efforts.
- Sponsor and Contribute project proposals with other districts.
- Implement projects that are available to the district to improve the rural lifestyle of Teton County.
- Coordinate with partners to address issues identified to promote energy savings and fire prevention.
- Become involved with planning and zoning relating to the right to farm issues

- Promote by workshops, classes for local producers in the importance of cover crops to soil health, reducing erosion, sediment run off, air quality issues and retaining moisture
- Work with partners NRCS and local nonprofits to support the use of cover crops to improve soil health.
- Secondary Education Scholarships for graduating seniors whose interests are in agricultural or conservation fields of study.

Staffing Needs IDAPA 60.05.02.025.03

- Part time administrative assistant/outreach coordinator

Technical assistance IDAPA 60.05.025.03

- Teton SCD currently partners with the USDA-NRCS for technical assistance to landowners of the district.
- The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission provide support to the district with a Water Quality Resource Conservationist. The WQRC is available as requested.
- The Teton SCD will seek and accept additional technical assistance outside the NRCS and ISWCC that will provide science based technical assistance to landowners as needed or required for project implementation.
- Teton SCD partners with several entities for grant purposes for various projects including those to promote energy efficiency, wildfire prevention, weed management as well as our no till drill project. High Country ROD, Teton County, Teton Regional Land Trust, Friends of the Teton River and Henry's Fork Foundation are a few of those partners.

KEY DECISIONMAKERS

- Citizens in Teton SCD and Teton County Idaho
- Teton County Commissioners; Bob Heneage, Cindy Riegel and Mike Whitfield
- Teton County Planning and Zoning Board Members: Tim Watters, Erica Tremblay, Rebecca Nolan and Wyatt Penfold
- City Contacts are as follows; City of Driggs – Mayor August Christensen, City of Tetonville – Mayor Brent Schindler and City of Victor – Will Frohlich. Driggs City Council; Alison Mchalski, Tristan Taylor, Mke Knowles and Jen Calder. Tetonville City Council is as follows; Ryan Bonilla, Aaron Hanson, Blain Ball and a current position open. Victor City Council as follows; Emily Sustick, Amy Ross, Sue Muncaster and Stacy Hulsing.
- US Senators and Congressman include: Senator Mark Harris, and Congressmen Marc Gibbs and Chad Christensen.
- Teton Soil Conservation District Supervisors are as follows; J Lynn Bagley–Chairman, Robert Piquet – Vice Chair, Harley Hill –Treasurer/secretary, Ron Hansen and Nathan Penfold.
- Other Government Entities and Groups; USDA-NRCS, USDA Farm Service Agency, US Forest Service, Idaho Fish and Game, Idaho Dept. of Water Resources, Idaho DEQ, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Community Foundation of Teton Valley, Friends of the Teton River, Teton Regional Land Trust, Valley Advocates for Responsible Development, The Henry's Fork Foundation.

WATER QUALITY COMPONENT IDAPA 60.05.02.025.05

The Henry's Fork Watershed Council serves as a watershed advisory group for the Upper Snake River Basin Advisory Group. Teton SCD will participate in their meetings regarding water quality and streams of concern listed on the Idaho 303(d) listed streams. The following information identifies the Teton Subbasin area and streams affected as defined by the Idaho DEQ.

Hydrologic Unit Code	17040204
Size	1,133 square miles (725,120 acres)
303(d) Listed	Badger Creek, Darby Creek, Fox Creek, Horseshoe Creek Moody Creek, North Leigh Creek Packsaddle Creek, South Leigh Creek Spring Creek, Teton River, North Fork Teton River
Beneficial Uses Affected	Cold H ₂ O aquatic life, salmonid Spawning
Pollutant of Concern	Sediment, nutrients, temperature, Flow alteration, habitat modification
Major Land Uses	Agriculture, recreation
Date Approved by US EPA	February 2003/ September 2003

The Teton Sub basin is one of three watersheds that comprise the Henry's Fork Basin. The Teton River drains an area of 806 square miles in Idaho and 327 square miles in Wyoming. The river originates from headwater streams in the Teton, Big Hble, and Snake River Mountain ranges and flows more than 64 miles to the point at which it discharges to the Henry's Fork River.

Teton Canyon contains the river for approximately 17 miles. In 1975, Teton Dam was completed at the lower end of the canyon to create a reservoir for irrigation water. In June 1976, when the reservoir behind the dam had almost filled, the earthen dam collapsed. More than 250,000 acre-feet of water and more than 4 million cubic yards of embankment material flowed through the breach in less than 6 hours. The portion of the river below the dam was extensively altered by the flood and by the mitigation and restoration work that followed. However, the quality of water in the Teton Sub Basin is generally good.

Of the 13 segments (11 streams/rivers) in the sub basin on Idaho's 1998 303(d) list, sediment is cited as the pollutant responsible for the impairment of 9 of them. Agriculture is the main contributor of sediment. The other pollutants shown on the 1998 303(d) list are also associated primarily with agriculture.

Sediment TMDLs were developed for 8 water bodies and nutrient TMDLs for 2 in the original TMDL. Temperature TMDLs for Fox and Spring Creeks and a nutrient TMDL for Moody Creek were developed in the TMDL supplement. Sediment allocations for North Leigh Creek were included in the Spring Creek Sediment TMDL.

Darby, Fox, Horseshoe, Packsaddle and Spring Creeks are listed for flow alteration, and the Teton River is listed for habitat alteration. However, the US EPA does not believe that flow and habitat alteration are pollutants as defined by the Clean Water Act. Since TMDLs are not required for water bodies impaired by pollution but not pollutants, TMDLs were not developed for flow or habitat alteration. (source: Idaho DEQ- Surface water sub basin assessment)

IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE PROJECTS IDAPA 60.05.02.025.06

The five-year review for streams identified and listed on the DEQs 303(d) list of impaired streams of concern took place in 2014. The board has participated in the five-year review and prioritized streams as listed and will address concerns relating to each as funds and implementation opportunities become available.

In the interest of improving water quality and meeting TMDLs in local rivers and streams in the Teton River and TSCDs interest in reducing soil erosion while improving agricultural business practices and returns in Teton County, Teton SCD and nonprofit Friends of the Teton River have created a unique partnership in the effort to implement a no till direct farming implement demonstration project.

With fundraising support from Friends of the Teton River, Teton SCD was able to purchase our Great Plains No till Drill in FY17. The No till Drill has seeded over 4500 acres in Teton County, we have several producers that use the drill annually with a cover crop plan in place. Every year we have several new producers leasing the drill for their crops. We like to incorporate education about cover crops and Management Intensive Grazing, using the drill to create healthier soil. To date since the purchase of the No till Drill over 4,500 acres in Teton County have been seeded with the No till Drill.

After having the drill available and incorporating our annual farm tours, we have been able to show the community the amazing changes going on in Teton County, from our producers, the Teton County, Teton SCD with the support from the Soil and Water Commission with soil health and the conservation and health of our Teton River.

2021 we purchased the Plotmaster seeder for community use to alleviate weed issues in fallow untended lots and fields. It has been well received by the community so much so that TSCD will be offering an area specific seed mix at cost to community members. We also partner with the county by letting the Weed Manager use the seeder at no cost to seed easements and riversides.

2023 We will be offering a designer seed mix developed for Teton County to our community practicing soil health by using our seeder to keep foliage in the many vacant properties. It will include grassy forage seed, and some non-invasive pollinator options to add to forage mix.



2023 (7/1/2023–6/30/2028) Annual Plan of Work

Teton Soil Conservation District

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRIORITY NUMBER 1: WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY, water quality, irrigated cropland, non-irrigated cropland, rangeland, pasture, hay land, information and education and fish and wildlife

GOALS Using a Soil Health Program to determining the success of using cover crops with a no till drill at reducing sediment and nitrates in the river. To also determine if the use of the no till and cover crops will improve the moisture and biologic health of the soil.

To always be involved in any local and periphery water conservation organization, to work with the county and partners to determine methods of improving the quality of water in our rivers and drinking water and to increase the quantity of the water available for ag producers.

To provide logical and financially lucrative solutions, outreach, workshops and programs for Teton County producers and community. Working with them for solutions, providing resources, tools and solutions to soil health programs.

OBJECTIVE

- To provide assistance and resource information to landowners in the district to meet the requirements of Idaho Water Quality Law, the Federal Clean Water Act and the Anti-Degradation Plan for Agriculture to improve water quality resources in Teton SCD
- To work with landowners helping them to improve irrigation energy and water efficiency. To provide programs or partner with entities that provide programs to assist with those improvements.
- To work with landowners to provide defensible space to reduce erosion to improve water quality.
- To work with landowners by making it possible to implement no till direct farming demonstration project. Including the use of cover crops as a means for further reducing soil erosion and thus improving water quality and directly benefitting agricultural producers.
- Active participation with the Teton Aquifer Recharge Program to ensure water volume for agriculture in dry season months, also benefitting the Teton River Wildlife habitat and temperatures.

ACTION

- 2020- Ongoing, Participate in the five-year review of the 303(d) listed streams as identified. Teton SCD purchased a Great Plains No Till Drill which we will lease to producers in Teton County as a low cost option to use

the no till drill on their crops. We have shown local interest in this implement; the drill having been used by over 12 local producers on OVER 8,000 acres. To continue to educate the community about soil health.

- 2021- Ongoing; TSCD added Plotmaster Seeder to our implement list, for use by the entire community offering the property owner access to a special seed option for putting down seed in the effort to maintain soil health, pollinator population, foraging grasses for wildlife. Purchased the seeder October of 2021 have already had over 18 citizens of Teton County use it to seed fallow lots and property.
- 2021-Ongoing; TSCD offers Teton County residents an educational farm tour, which highlights the efforts of the district in conservation efforts and efforts of the district working with the county and private landowners to improve conservation efforts, soil health and best practices. Has become a hugely successful event.
- 2021-Ongoing; To provide an annual Soil Health Workshop for local producers to hear renowned presenters on specific topics of interest regarding biotic farming, soil health, cover crops, field management and best ag practices overall.
- 2023-Ongoing; TSCD will offer a Teton Specific Seed Mix to community members at cost when using the seeder- providing a forage/pollination aspect as well as weed control and soil health on untended and fallow lots.
- 2022-Ongoing; TSCD is offering two secondary education scholarships to local graduating seniors who intend to follow an agriculture or conservation field of study.
- 2018-2022- Soil Health Initiative With our partners, (NRCS) and Friends of the Teton River who have written a grant for our Soil Health Initiative; in which local producers in the program will have cover crop seeds and consultation available to them, reimbursement for being in the program and scientific testing of the ground water and river over the course of three years. Our objective is to determine if using cover crops and no till will succeed in Teton Valley.
- Ongoing-Assist NRCS with technical and outreach assistance through Farm Bill Programs to eligible landowners to improve water quantity and irrigation efficiency.
- Ongoing- Participate in outreach with our local school children, with poster contests, and the Water Awareness Week 6th grade field trip.
- Ongoing- Be involved with State and National Youth Conservation efforts.
- Ongoing-participate in Watershed advisory Group Meetings, Water Users Association and communications with state and local water management groups.
- Ongoing- Write Grants, Manage and Create funding for local Water Conservation Programs
- Ongoing-Continue to prioritize projects to meet energy efficiency in projects; and pursue wildfire protection projects to improve water quality





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CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRIORITY #2: SOIL HEALTH AND VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT- addressing water quality, irrigated cropland, non-irrigated cropland, rangeland, pasture, hay land, information and education and fish and wildlife. Providing information about vegetation management in wildfire areas. Weed Management and soil health.

GOALS

- To control noxious weeds and pests, improving grazing lands.
- To promote agronomic-forestry to reduce erosion and wind impacts.
- To educate and implement cover crops in Teton Valley to reduce erosion and wind impacts.
- To improve the bio-matter in the soil, improve soil health and retained moisture by use of the no till drill and cover crops.

OBJECTIVE

- To control noxious weeds through a public information program working with the county and partners to provide resources, assistance and education to landowners.
- To promote no till drill usage by providing our no till drill at an affordable cost to Teton County producers.
- To promote and offer our new seeder to the community in order to reduce the number of unplanted lots with noxious weeds and fallow soil. With programs installed to promote use.
- To provide education to agriculture producers in the use of cover crops for soil health, increased productivity,
- To participate in carbon sequestration programs to improve grazing lands and promote windbreak establishment.
- To participate with the local planning and zoning board in issues relating to agriculture and conservation of our natural resources impacted by development.
- To work with landowners to provide defensible space to reduce erosion and to improve water quality.
- To provide a standard of soil health excellence within our AG-Community as well as conscientious community members trying to reduce weeds and promote soil health by keeping a cover crop throughout the growing season annually.

Action:

2022-ongoing Scholarships for local graduating seniors going into agriculture or conservation fields of study.

2023-Ongoing Offer a Teton Specific seed mix to be used with newly purchased Plotmaster seeder, a need recognized once the seeder was purchased. Specific mix created by NRCS for forage and pollinating efforts also abating the weed issues in the valley.

2020- Inform the public of the threat of noxious weeds and be a participant in the Upper Snake Weed Management area. Teton SCD participates in a county workshop in cooperation with Teton County. The workshop offers credits for local sprayers and education to the community about recognition and control of noxious weeds.

2023-Assist Teton County in finding a capable Weed Manager who will work for nothing and commute a hundred miles to work each day, an impossible task- but our efforts never cease.

Ongoing- Work with local leaders in the community to ensure agricultural landowner's rights are considered and included in planning and decisions.

2021 Ongoing- TSCD board have become involved in a new Conservation Advisory Board for Teton County Planning and Zoning decision making.

Ongoing- Lease our Great Plains No Till Drill to local producers at low cost, encouraging the use of the no till use with cover crops to promote soil health and less soil erosion into the live waters of Teton Valley.

2020-Ongoing- Offer an annual Farm Tour to the community which is fun and informational showcasing specific conservation projects by producers, TSCD, Teton County, NRCS

2018-Ongoing partners NRCS, DEQ and FTR contribute and participate in Soil Health Programs, providing information to and encouraging producers to participate in the Soil Health Program

2021 Ongoing- Soil Health Workshop for local producers featuring noted speakers and innovative ideas in conservation and soil health.

June 2021- Soil Health Workshop with Ray Archuleta - outreach for ag-producers in Teton County.

August 2021- Teton County Farm Tour-outreach for the community about agriculture, what TSCD is promoting in the valley and the efforts for soil health, sustainable water, healthy rivers along with many other community driven topics regarding Teton Valley and agriculture.

January 2022 - Soil Health Workshop with Brendon Rocky in Teton County

January 2022 Soil Health Forum with local producers and experts, see below





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CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRIORITY #3: DISTRICT OPERATIONS

GOALS Effectively operate the Teton SCD as an efficient subdivision of local and state government. Seek additional funding sources to continue to expand SCD services and resources for the benefit of Teton County Idaho

OBJECTIVE To keep the Teton SCD an effective voice for conservation in Teton County Idaho

Actions: Ongoing- Seek funding sources to continue operations and expand programs and resources for the agriculture producers in Teton County.

Ongoing- Develop and maintain administrative procedures and policies to operate the Teton SCD. Maintain the administrative responsibilities, update annual reports for the SCD, conduct supervisor elections, meet with county commissioners.

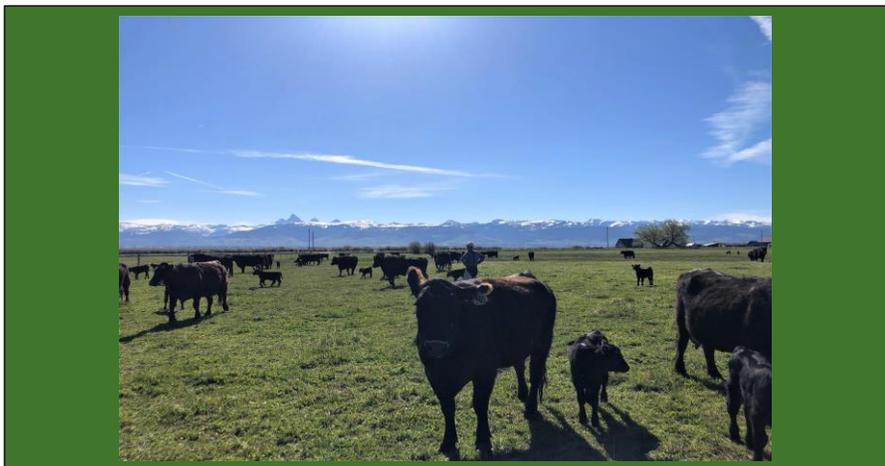
Ongoing- Promote conservation education through workshops to landowners. Promote conservation education to the youth through the NACD Poster Contest, Speech Contests and Envirothon competition.

Ongoing- To participate in the Water Users Association to bring change in the water situation locally.

Ongoing- To offer a local grant for one or more Teton County producers for a cover crop or soil health project, upon board approval.

As Requested, - Provide input to the Teton County Planning and Building Department regarding subdivision in rural areas.

Monthly- To provide accurate accounting of financial and grant funding. Provide updates to annual and 5-year work and business plans. Hold regular meetings to address conservation in Teton Valley.





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CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRIORITY #4: Fish and Wildlife

GOALS To improve fish and wildlife habitat in Teton County

OBJECTIVE Educate landowners regarding riparian management benefits and keep them informed of fish and wildlife issues. To improve the TDM's in the river by the use of cover crops and no till drill usage.

Actions

Ongoing- Encourage landowners to implement practices to improve riparian habitat.

Ongoing- Cooperate with NRCS to implement conservation measures as identified in the new Farm Bill Incentive Programs.

Ongoing- To provide workshops to the community with various themes that will benefit fish and wildlife; Weed Workshops, Conservation Programs and outreach.

Ongoing- Participate in group process and provide input in projects with Friends of the Teton River on Trail Creek and Teton Creek. Participate with the Teton Regional Land Trust to provide input in projects located and specific to Riparian Habitat.

Ongoing- Promote our No Till Leasing Project, and in conjunction with Idaho DEQ, USFS, EPA and Idaho Office of Species Conservation.



Teton Soil Conservation District – assisting land managers with their conservation choices